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The Captured Files Turn Harvard Crimson

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The theft of confidential documents by students who occupied the Harvard University administration building last week has widened the much-discussed credibility gap between students, faculty and university administration.

The photocopied documents were reproduced in three issues of the Old Mole, a radical "underground" publication in Boston. University officials, frankly embarrassed by the theft, have issued contradictory explanations and denials concerning Old Mole's charge that the documents show Harvard to be "an institution of the higher classes, a plaything of the interlocking government-Pentagon-foundation world

which makes American foreign

"We have not been able to determine whether documents still are missing from the dean's files, and if so, how many," stated a worried administrative assistant to faculty Dean Franklin Ford this week. Ford was taken to a hospital yesterday for treatment of a "circulatory" condition.

Most controversial of the stolen documents is a letter Ford wrote to Harvard President Nathan M. Pusey expressing Ford's displeasure with a faculty decision to strip campus ROTC programs of their academic standing.

Abolition of ROTC training at Harvard is the principle demand of striking students. Ford

refused to confirm or deny the authenticity of the letter, dated Feb. 11, which suggested ways to circumvent the faculty decision.

Another purported stolen document is the cover sheet of a Harvard proposal to the Central Intelligence Agency for "Graphical Display and Extensible Languages in Text Manipulations Systems." The administration described the proposal as "open, unclassified research," and noted that Harvard had not permitted classified research for many years.

Old Mole's printed excerpts of a document describing MIT's Center for International Studies said it was established to "penetrate the Iron Curtain with ideas," and that "much of the

initiative for the establishment of the center came from members of the Harvard faculty." Harvard explained this was a 1953 proposal and that a government contract was not involved.

The theft and reproduction of a State Dept. telegram of Oct. 22, 1966 to Ford, thanking Harvard for making the professor, now Presidential aide Henry Kissinger available for "an extremely successful mission to South Vietnam" has caused confusion in Washington and Cambridge.

The telegram forced Ford to disclose at a faculty meeting that Kissinger had been secretly "slipped into North Vietnam" on a peace-seeking mission for former President Johnson. Ford

said, the mission "hardly showed Harvard's complicity with the war in Vietnam."

In Washington, Kissinger denied that he had been on such a mission for Johnson, and a spokesman for President Nixon said Kissinger, "has never been to North Vietnam in his life."

Ford then withdrew his assertion, but added, "of course, I have had no access to classified information."

Finally, the underground paper reproduced a letter from Harvard economics professor Arthur Smithies to Ford, dated Dec. 7, 1967, revealing Smithies' connection with the CIA for 10 years. Harvard said Smithies had been a consultant to an economics unit indirectly subsidized by the CIA.